

HOUSE RESOLUTION 380

By Vincent

A RESOLUTION to commend Lester Wilker for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a Volunteer Driver for the Disabled American Veterans.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable citizens who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Lester Wilker is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Wilker has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, between 1997 and 2002, he logged more than 100,000 miles as a Volunteer Driver for the Disabled American Veterans; and

WHEREAS, he began his service after retiring from the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing, Pipefitting, Sprinkler Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada Local 776 in January of 1991, having earned the respect and admiration of his peers for the unsurpassed quality of his work and his character; he received a 35-year pin in recognition of an accomplished career, during which he served as Superintendent of Instrumentation at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgeman, Michigan and as a Coordinator at the Fermi 2 Nuclear Powerhouse in Monroe, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, after answering a printed call for drivers, he typically drove disabled veterans from his hometown of Dayton, and later East Ridge, to medical appointments in Atlanta, Nashville, and Murfreesboro, often logging more than 250 miles during his 8-hour volunteer days; and

WHEREAS, although he has now retired and passed his keys to younger drivers, he continues to do some driving in his own car, at his own expense, when there is a need for his services; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilker has been the worthy recipient of numerous awards and commendations in honor of his volunteerism, including a Certificate of Service from Senator Fred Thompson, a Certificate of Appreciation from Hamilton County, the DAV National Commander's Award, a Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Certificate, and the distinction of Colonel, Aide de Camp on Governor Don Sundquist's staff; and

WHEREAS, Lester Wilker is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilker is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Lester Wilker for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as a Volunteer Driver for the Disabled American Veterans, salute his tremendous character and dedication to the common good, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.